

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presenting amended and in light of the following discussion are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 14-15 are currently being prosecuted. Claims 1-4 have been amended, claims 14 and 15 have been added, and claims 11-13 have been cancelled by the present amendment.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-4, 6 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Astrom, and claims 7-9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Astrom. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 includes a combination of elements and is directed to a milling cutter, comprising: a cutter body configured to be mounted to a main shaft of a cutting tool and including a plurality of insert seats provided around an outer circumference of the cutter body; and a plurality of cutting inserts, a corresponding cutting insert having a hexahedral shape and inserted into and selectively fastened to a corresponding insert seat, wherein the corresponding cutting insert includes a through hole from an upper surface to a lower surface and the corresponding insert seat includes first and second locking holes arranged on perpendicular surfaces of the corresponding insert seat such that the corresponding cutting insert can be selectively fastened to the corresponding insert seat in either end of each of two perpendicular directions.

These features are supported by at least by the non-limiting example shown in Figs. 1-3 and the corresponding description in the specification. For example, Fig. 1 illustrates a cutter body 110 configured to be mounted to a main shaft of a cutting tool and including a plurality of

insert seats 112 provided around an outer circumference of the cutter body 110; and a plurality of cutting inserts 120, a corresponding cutting insert 120 having a hexahedral shape and inserted into and selectively fastened to a corresponding insert seat 112, wherein the corresponding cutting insert 120 includes a through hole 126 from an upper surface 122 to a lower surface 124 and the corresponding insert seat 112 includes first and second locking holes 116a, 116b arranged on perpendicular surfaces of the corresponding insert seat 112 such that the cutting insert 120 can be selectively fastened to the corresponding insert seat 112 in either end of each of two perpendicular directions.

On the contrary, Astrom is silent about the cutting insert including two locking holes arranged on perpendicular surfaces of the corresponding insert seat such that the cutting insert can be selectively fastened to the corresponding insert seat in either end of each of two perpendicular directions. Instead, Astrom's seat 8 has only one hole 12 and thus the cutting insert 9 is fastened to the seat 8 in only one direction (see Figs. 1, 3 and 6 of Astrom). Also, a wedge 4 of Astrom having one hole cannot be equated with the seat 8 because the cutting insert 9 is not inserted into the wedge 4. The wedge 4 is fixed to the cassette 3 (see Fig. 1 and its relevant description of Astrom column 3, lines 38-50). Therefore, only one hole exists in the seat 8 of Astrom and the cutting insert 9 is fastened to the seat 8 in only one direction. Accordingly, Astrom fails to teach or suggest the claimed features.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patent relied on by the Examiner. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

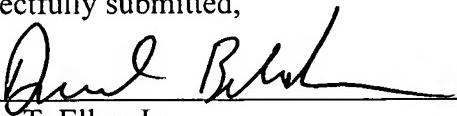
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James T. Eller, Jr., Reg. No. 39,538, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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